



LL.M. STUDENT MICHAEL KALISA

One of the students currently earning an LL.M. in Government Law and Policy from Pacific McGeorge is Michael Kalisa. Michael was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where he and his family were refugees from civil strife in Rwanda. Returning to Rwanda after the genocide there in 1994, Michael began working tirelessly for the promotion and protection of individual civil and political rights.

After earning his law degree from the Free University of Kigali, he worked as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General of the Republic of Rwanda on matters relating to the rebuilding of the country's legal infrastructure, attempting at the same time to find ways to protect the rights of both genocide victims and those accused of crimes. Subsequently, Michael was able to continue his human rights work first as a Legal Researcher in Management and Administration and later as an Associate Legal Officer of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. While with the ICTR, Michael greatly enhanced the cooperation between the government of Rwanda and the Tribunal.

Additionally, Michael has worked as vice-president and legal advisor to a local non-governmental organization in Rwanda that educated more than 1000 former child soldiers, thus further promoting the process of reconciliation following the genocide. Michael hopes to use the knowledge he gains as a student in the LL.M. in Government Law and Policy program at Pacific McGeorge to further serve his country when he returns, particularly with regard to the rebuilding of its judicial system.